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**MORE THAN 3000 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2009  
NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES IN SPOKANE**

SPOKANE, WASH. – May 25, 2009 – More than 3,000 volunteers are needed to assist with the 2009 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, taking place in Spokane, Wash., July 13-18, 2009. It is the second time the Games have been held in the state of Washington.

Volunteers are needed to assist with registration, meals, transportation, site set-up, timing, scoring, towel and water distribution, and other important tasks. All volunteers will receive a Games T-shirt and the satisfaction of helping veterans with disabilities achieve a tremendous personal triumph.

Volunteering is also an excellent way for high school students to earn community service credits for college applications, or for college students to gain important volunteer experience. Volunteers under age 18 must have written parental guardian permission to participate in this volunteer program.

“Now is the time for the Spokane’s residents to come together to welcome with pride and gratitude our amazing wheelchair athletes,” said Sharon Helman, director of the Spokane VA Medical Center. “I encourage the residents of our community to volunteer and be a part of this inspiring event. It is an experience you will never forget.”

More than 500 veterans are expected to compete this year, making the National Veterans Wheelchair Games the largest annual wheelchair sports competition in the world. Athletes come from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain, and represent veterans who have served from World War II to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Among the featured 17 competitive events are handcycling, power soccer, basketball, weightlifting, track, field and softball.

**-- More --**



## **Wheelchair Games 2/2/2/2**

To volunteer for the 29<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Spokane, contact Kathy Kovalsky, Volunteer Coordinator for the Games, at (509) 434-7510 or [Kathleen.Kovalsky2@va.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Kovalsky2@va.gov); or download the volunteer application online at [www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov).

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*The Games are sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Spokane VA Medical Center and PVA's Northwest Chapter are hosting the Games. For more information, contact Matthew R. Allen at (509) 434-7000, ext. 6205; or [Matthew.Allen2@va.gov](mailto:Matthew.Allen2@va.gov). The Games Web site is [www.wheelchairgames.va.gov](http://www.wheelchairgames.va.gov).*